

*Frank Stephens*  
*Field Notes, 1928*

*January 1 - July 28, 1928*

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

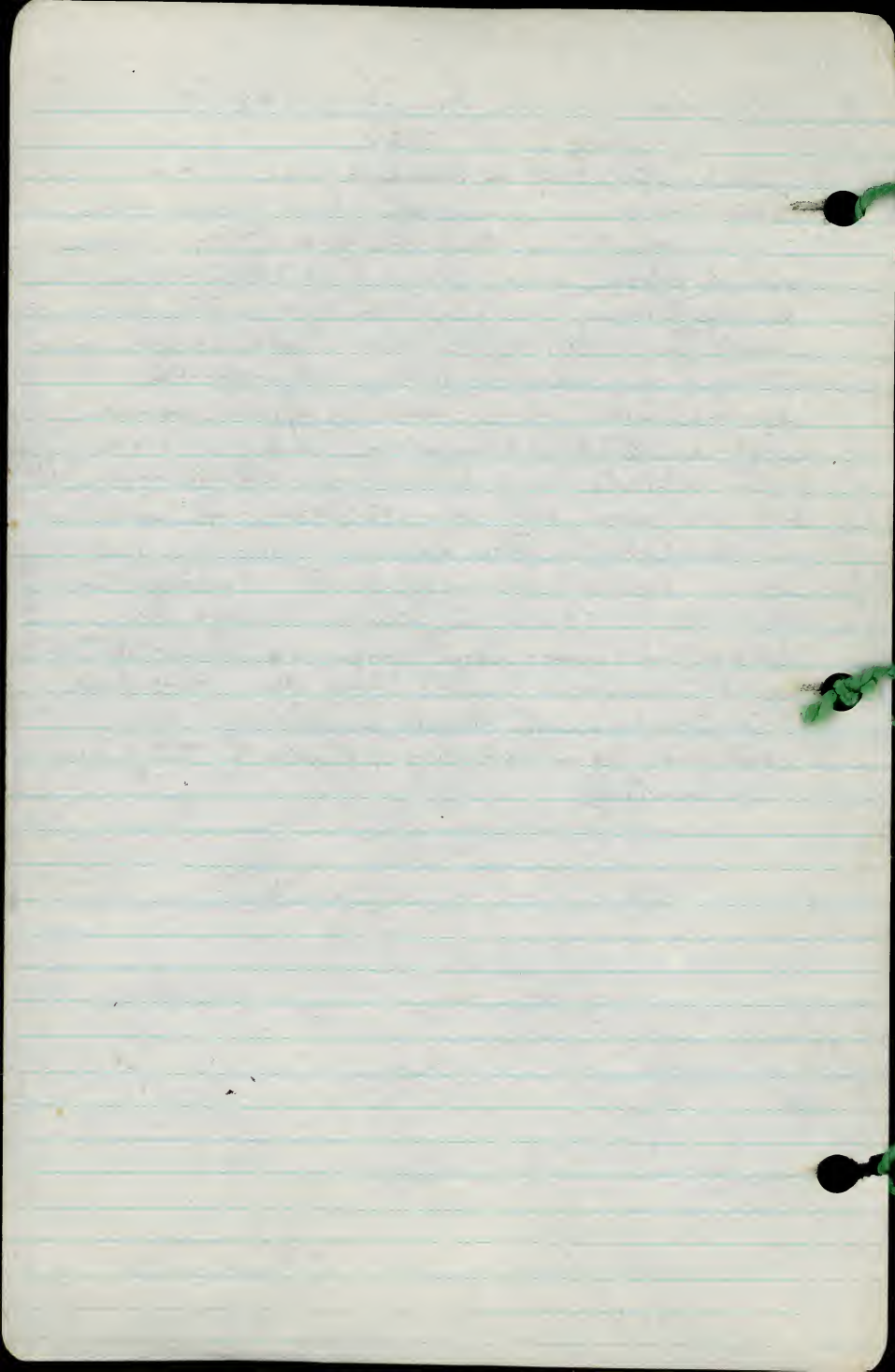
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Mission Gorge, San Diego Co. Cal.

Jan'y 1 - 1928

This locality is near where a dam was started many years ago. It is where the land on the south side of San Diego River levels down and joins on to the mesa back of San Diego. North of the river the hills continue a mile or more. The river runs through a gorge a mile below camp. The region southwest of camp is open ground with scattering clumps of sumac and other shrubs, which around camp and east become more abundant, forming patches of chaparral. The annual forms of grass have 3 or 4 inches of growth. Among the clumps of brush on the hillsides are some Microtus runs - from clumps of brush to the next nearer clump. There are very few Neotoma nests, and scarcely any ground squirrel holes. Perhaps they are hibernating.

Box 177



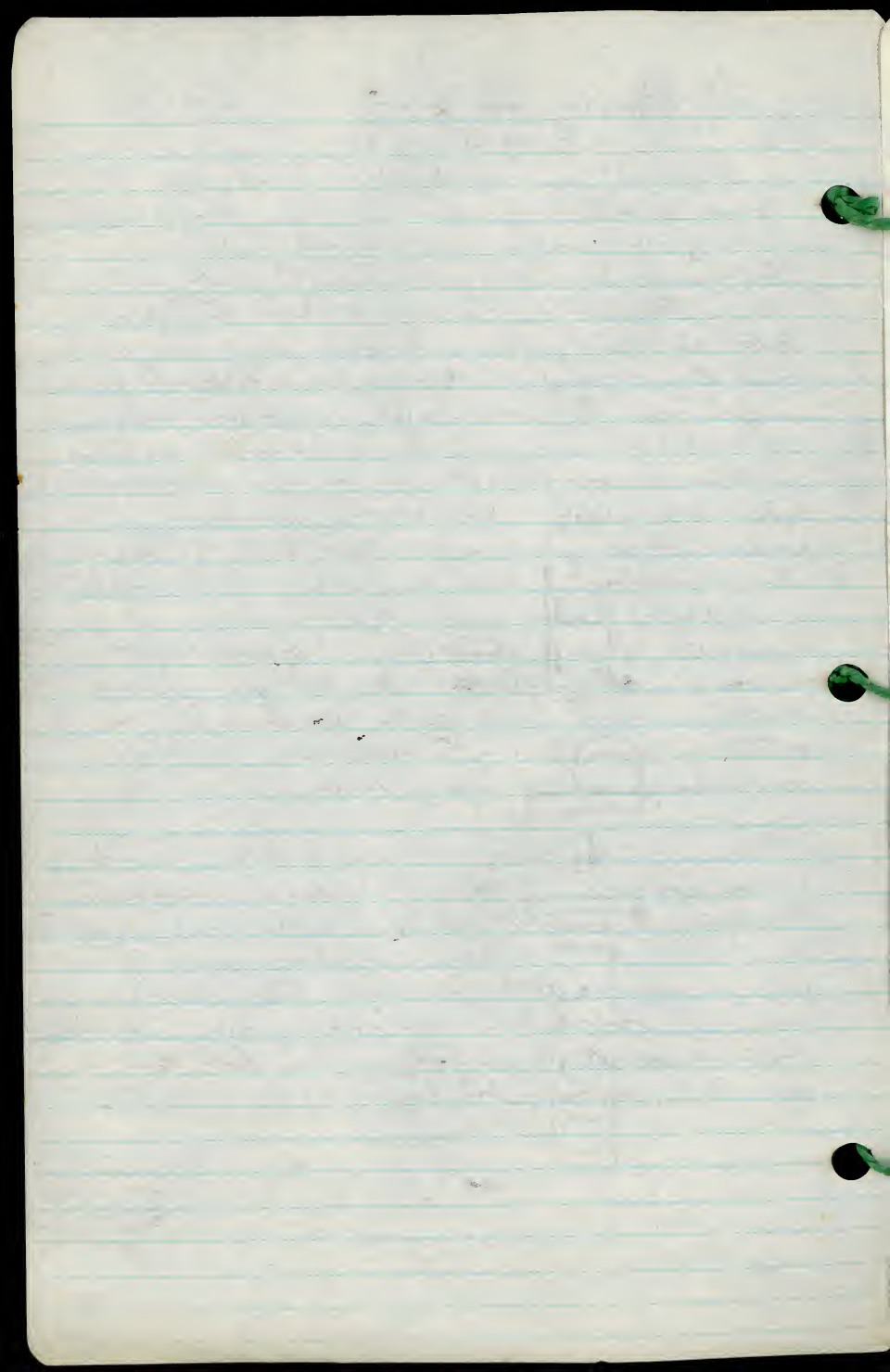
El Monte, San Diego Co., Cal.

Feb'y 21 1928

Camped in the public park, on the bank of San Diego River. This camp ground is a fine grove of live oak trees. The river bottom is about a quarter of a mile wide. Above the valley on each side the foot hills rise to quite a height, and are more or less covered with brush. I trapped four nights on the south side. A few traps put out along the river bank caught nothing. A line along the flume on the mountain side was fairly productive. Yesterday I waded the river and put out 40 traps. This morning I had one sack of Neotoma f. macrotis, Peromyscus boylii rowleyi, P. insignis, P. l. fraterculus. I have kept several steel traps out, but none were disturbed. I have seen no tracks or other signs of any carnivores. Frosty mornings and warm days.

Feb'y 23

There is a mole run near camp. I tried gopher traps on it but it passed undisturbed. Mr. Earl brought out my mole trap yesterday. Yesterday was a holiday and there was a school picnic here. The children ran all over the mole run and tramped it flat, so last night was a poor chance for the mole trap. I'll try it again tonight.



North Guyanaca Mt. S D Co Cal  
July 11 1928

I am camped in Harrison Park, near the office. The altitude of camp is about 5000 feet. I came in here day before yesterday to try to get a gray squirrel for the identification case. So far I have found none, though I have taken them near here several times. I have several sets of traps out, some up at the old saw mill, a mile or more from here. The only steel traps disturbed so far caught two California jays. I have seen but one blue-fronted jay and a few California jays. Have seen no woodpecker of any species. Juncos are common, also wrens (*parus*), Other birds are more or less plenty. Ground squirrels are abundant. 20 traps set in a fern patch caught four harvest mice last night. I see cottontail tracks in the road near the willow patches along the little stream. There is an occasional *Neotoma* here, and I saw one *Microtus* here. This morning on my way to the old sawmill I saw tracks of a fox, a bobcat and a *Spilogale* in the road. Yesterday I saw a fresh deer track in the road. The season is exceedingly dry here. All animals are ripe and dry. Almost the only bloom is a few shrubs. The stream beds are dry and the springs are low.

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Main body of handwritten text, consisting of several paragraphs. The handwriting is cursive and somewhat faded. The text appears to be a personal letter or a journal entry, discussing various topics in detail. The paragraphs are separated by small gaps, and the overall flow is continuous.

Laguna Mts, San Diego Co. Cal  
July 28 1928

I drove up here yesterday hoping to get a gray squirrel and a Thomomys chipmunk, About a mile from camp a gray squirrel crossed the road and ran up one of a group of pine trees and across the branches into another. By the time I got my gun and cartridges it had disappeared. I watched for ~~time~~<sup>it</sup> 15 or 20 minutes but did not see it again. I set two steel traps on a chance to get it, but have not yet. This forenoon I tramped four hours thru the timber to look for squirrels but saw none. I saw two chipmunks, briefly, but failed to get a shot at either. Set some rat traps for them and may succeed. There are no acorns this season and pine cones are scarce. In the trail I saw tracks of a Spilogale, a raccoon and a mountain lion. The lion's track was five inches long and nearly as broad. It is very dry here and vegetation is small. A ~~lit~~ light shower fell this afternoon, some thunder.



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